

SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



TRUTH · JUSTICE · INTEGRITY



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Diversity

Building the Foundation for the Office's Future

Class of 2019

21.7%
Non-white

26% Speak
Foreign
Language

Class of 2020

26.7%
Non-White

20% Speak
Foreign
Language

Class of 2021

70%
Non-White

50% Speak
Foreign
Language



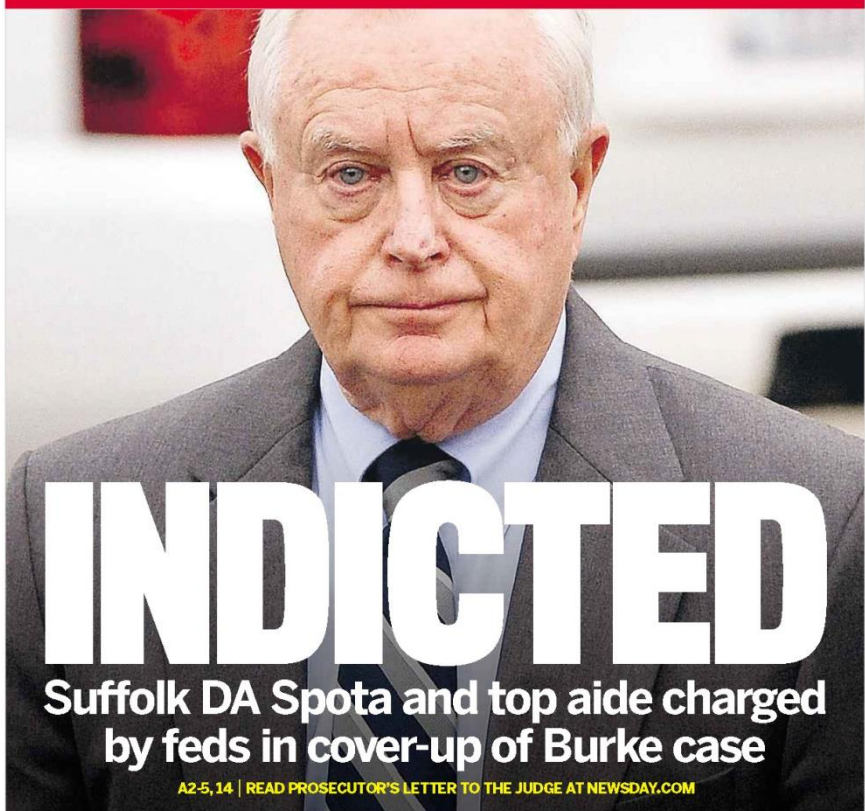
HOW NEWSDAY COVERED SANDY 76-PAGE DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE INSIDE

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Thursday
Oct. 26, 2017

SPORTS FINAL
Newsday
THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER



HI 61° LO 43°
CHANCE OF SHOWERS



INDICTED

Suffolk DA Spota and top aide charged
by feds in cover-up of Burke case

A2-5, 14 | READ PROSECUTOR'S LETTER TO THE JUDGE AT [NEWSDAY.COM](http://newsday.com)

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STEVE PROST

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Wednesday
Dec. 18, 2019

SPORTS FINAL
Newsday
YOUR EYE ON LI



HI 37° LO 17°
FEW SNOW SHOWERS



POWER ON TRIAL

SPOTA'S FALL

Ex-Suffolk DA and former top aide found guilty
on all counts in cover-up case

A2-7 | VIDEO AT [NEWSDAY.COM](http://newsday.com)

HISTORIC IMPEACHMENT VOTE SET FOR TODAY

A8-9

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BRADY JACOB

EDITORIALS

Sini's task as DA: Clean up Suffolk

And next police head must continue reforms

Suffolk County has a new district attorney. Tim Sini now has his charge. He must restore the public's trust in one of the most important and powerful offices in the county. The mission of a prosecutor's office, in perception and reality, is to enforce the laws and deliver justice.

Thomas Spota, who held the office for 16 years, battered its reputation. For most of that time, he was endorsed by virtually every political party and accountable to no one. That kind of power is corrupting and corrosive, and last month Spota and his top deputy were indicted on federal charges that they helped cover up crimes, the physical abuse of a suspect in custody, by then-police chief and Spota protégé James Burke.

Now it's up to Sini to harness his undeniable ambition as fuel for the exorcism. He said all the right things in his victory speech, promising to restore integrity. He said he'd immediately begin to assemble a top-notch transition team. He vowed the office will no longer be a tool to benefit the politically connected.

That will require big changes. If there aren't massive resignations from top managers, he should begin firing them on day one. He must follow through on his promise to require financial disclosures from deputies and bureau chiefs. He must set down rules that ban political activism to ensure the office is nonpolitical.

Perhaps most critically, he must be independent from the powers that helped deliver him his nomination on multiple party lines. Sini must remember: His allegiance is to the voters who gave him their confidence. One encouraging sign: Sini held his victory party at his own headquarters, separate from party leaders.

His victory means County Executive Steve Bellone also has a charge: To find a new police commissioner, and this time to follow a standard process for hiring one. Sini became commissioner only after the arrest of Burke. He started a cleanup of the police department, but the job is far from complete. The culture that festered under Burke is still there.

Bellone had foolishly appointed Burke, despite many red flags. He stuck with the disgraced chief long after it was clear that was not tenable. And he appointed Sini without the benefit of a real search to find someone who could address the morale and discipline problems on the force, as well as one who could shape it into a model department.

This time, Bellone should cast a wide net. He should consider someone who has run a large suburban police department. And both Sini and Bellone must understand their actions will be evaluated against the backdrop of a recent Newsday investigation that found a racial bias in the county's criminal justice system. Minorities are far more likely than whites to be stopped by police, arrested, jailed and charged with felonies for having cocaine or heroin. Better training in both offices is essential.

Suffolk also will have a new sheriff. Democrat Errol Toulon Jr. is leading but the tightness of his margin over Republican Lawrence Zacarese and the many outstanding absentee ballots means the result won't be final for weeks. Whoever wins must remain independent of the political machinations that marred this contest.

In Suffolk, criminal justice and politics have been an unholy mix. It's time to start anew.

— The editorial board



District Attorney-elect Tim Sini

LONG ISLAND / POLITICS

Tim Sini: Transition to Suffolk DA will have 'investigative' aspect



Suffolk County District Attorney-elect Timothy Sini on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017, discussed moves needed to create an effective transition team as he prepares to start his new job. Credit: Barry Sloan

LONG ISLAND / SUFFOLK

DA-elect Timothy Sini unveils high-powered transition team

By Andrew Smith

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Updated November 21, 2017 6:08 PM

announced a 13-member transition team Tuesday to take over the office and put his priorities into action.

Sini replaced U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York and Suffolk County Commissioner Justin Meyers.

The office recently vacated by Thomas Spota, who was charged with obstruction of justice charges. He has pleaded guilty.

Suffolk District Attorney Emily Constant has been named to replace Sini.

Constant, and Meyers, the team also includes Evelyn D'Amico, a former victim Kayla Cuevas, 16, who was beaten to death by members of the MS-13 street gang.

"I want to bring a new perspective," Sini said.



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Era of Reform



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Era of Reform

- Conducted a top-to-bottom review of the Office, including interviews with all 180 ADAs in which they were asked to make recommendations to improve the office.
- Restored integrity to the leadership of the Office following the indictment of the former District Attorney and Chief of the Government Corruption Bureau.
- Ushered in a new culture of excellence and compliance with all legal and ethical obligations, including adopting the most progressive voluntary disclosure policy in the State.
- For the first time, required all ADAs to file financial disclosure forms with the Suffolk County Board of Ethics to ensure impartiality and avoid conflicts of interest.



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Era of Reform

- Reengaged our federal law enforcement partners
- Invested in new technology and began process of making the Office paperless in order to further our ability to collect and analyze data
- Restructured the Office and created new bureaus, including:
 - Enhanced Prosecution Bureau
 - Felony Offense Bureau
 - Intake Bureau
 - Conviction Integrity Bureau
 - Special Narcotics Bureau
 - Appeals & Training Bureau



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Our Mission



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Our Mission

To make the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office a national model, to serve justice in each and every case, and to make Suffolk County as safe as possible to live, work and raise a family.



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Recruitment



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Recruitment

Diversifying Perspectives

- Since 2018, the SCDAO now participates in on-campus interviews and other recruitment events at dozens of law schools, including Ivy Leagues and HBCUs, from across the country.
- New Classes
 - Class of 2019: 25 new ADAs from 14 different law schools
 - Class of 2020: 30 new ADAs from 13 different law schools
 - Class of 2021: 10 new ADAs from 7 different law schools



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Recruitment

Virtual Internship Seminar Program

- In 2020, despite challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, the Office launched an unprecedented virtual internship program with more than 400 participants representing over 80 different law schools across the country.
- Gave students with limited resources and those coming from underserved communities an opportunity to engage in a substantive educational opportunity within the criminal justice system during COVID.
- Connected our office with hundreds of diverse future employment candidates who would have never considered Suffolk as a prospective employer.
- 93% of participants said the program made them more interested in joining the criminal justice system and interested in applying to Suffolk and 90% said they would recommend Suffolk to their peers.



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Recruitment

Breaking Down Barriers to Entry

- Residency requirement lifted for new ADAs
- Partnered with the Harvard Kennedy School of Government to implement best practices with the objective of increasing talent and diversity
- Appointed a diverse Hiring Team (24% non-white, 42 total ADAs) to create a welcoming, inclusive environment
- Participated in recruitment efforts and job fairs with the National Black Prosecutors Association, Amistad Black Bar Association and Asian American Bar Association of New York
- Actively engaging in new partnerships and seeking additional opportunities to reach a diverse array of future prosecutors



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Diversity



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Diversity

2017		2020	
91% White <i>170 Attorneys</i>	9% Non-White <i>17 Attorneys</i>	85.5% White <i>177 Attorneys</i>	14.5% Non-White <i>30 Attorneys</i>
			<i>Nearly Doubled in 3 Years</i>

- Foreign language speakers:
 - 29 attorneys
 - 18 foreign languages spoken
- Ultimate goal is to have an Office that is reflective of the communities we serve by 2026



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Diversity

- Of the 93 new attorneys hired since 2018, 59.1% self-identify as either non-white, female, a foreign language speaker, or a member of the LGBTQ+ community.
 - 26.8% identify as non-white
- Under the prior administration in 2017, there was not a single person of color in a supervisory position. Today, there are 2 supervisors who self-identify as Black, 1 who self-identifies as Hispanic, and 2 who self-identify as Asian.



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Training



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Training

- The SCDAO provides upwards of 110 hours of training opportunities and Continuing Legal Education (CLEs) for prosecutors each year to ensure we are employing the best, most up-to-date practices. Launched Working Group to continue to enhance our training program, including an anonymous office-wide survey.
- We are currently creating an implicit bias awareness program for staff that we hope will be a national model for how law enforcement should address the issue.
 - Working with the County's Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer on development of the program
 - Meeting with outside organizations and academic institutions for input and guidance, including Harvard University, Stony Brook University, and the Inheritance Project
 - Program will be an ongoing project that is continuously evaluated, updated and provided to all ADAs



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**Investing in Technology
& Data Analytics**



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Investing in Technology & Data Analytics

- Upgraded outdated case management system to PCMS in 2019
 - All-digital system brings us closer to achieving our goal of becoming a paperless office
 - Will allow for enhanced data analytics in the future
 - Includes a Digital Evidence Management System ("DEMS") to facilitate producing discovery materials in a timely, efficient manner
- Cases are added to the system immediately upon arrest by the Intake Bureau
 - Staffed 24/7 to assess the sufficiency of all accusatory instruments, address any legal issues that may arise during investigation or arrest, and begin to gather all documents and witness information needed to certify compliance with discovery laws



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Investing in Technology & Data Analytics

- Building an advanced data analytics platform
 - Consulting with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and other DA's Offices as well as public and private sector agencies to develop best practices
 - Goal is to create a system to provide comprehensive, meaningful analyses that will be used as a national model
- Partnered with the National Guard, Brookhaven National Laboratory and other institutions



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Investing in Technology & Data Analytics

Evaluating Sentencing Data

- Sentencing is based on a number of facts and circumstances and is ultimately determined by the Judge
- ADAs can make sentencing recommendations, which are determined in consultation with supervisors after a thorough review of each case
- Sentencing data is compiled by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and is available online at www.CriminalJustice.NY.gov

NYS DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

Suffolk County Adult Arrests Disposed by Race/Ethnicity: 2019

Top Arrest Charge		Race/Ethnicity									
		White		Black		Hispanic		Other		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Felony	Total Dispositions	1,870	100.0%	1,587	100.0%	1,114	100.0%	116	100.0%	4,687	100.0%
	Convicted-Sentenced	1,578	84.4%	1,328	83.7%	947	85.0%	90	77.6%	3,943	84.1%
	Diverted and Dismissed	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Covered by Another Case	56	3.0%	48	3.0%	24	2.2%	0	0.0%	128	2.7%
	Dismissed-ACD	106	5.7%	59	3.7%	48	4.3%	17	14.7%	230	4.9%
	Dismissed-Not ACD	100	5.3%	139	8.8%	88	7.9%	7	6.0%	334	7.1%
	Acquitted	1	0.1%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	3	0.1%
	DA Declined to Prosecute	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Other	29	1.6%	12	0.8%	6	0.5%	2	1.7%	49	1.0%
	Convictions for:										
	Felonies	488	26.1%	543	34.2%	375	33.7%	24	20.7%	1,430	30.5%
	Misdemeanors	733	39.2%	562	35.4%	341	30.6%	33	28.4%	1,669	35.6%
	Non-Criminal/Unknown	357	19.1%	223	14.1%	231	20.7%	33	28.4%	844	18.0%
	Sentences to:										
	Prison	121	6.5%	276	17.4%	120	10.8%	9	7.8%	526	11.2%
	Jail	323	17.3%	376	23.7%	198	17.8%	10	8.6%	907	19.4%
	Time Served	111	5.9%	115	7.2%	64	5.7%	7	6.0%	297	6.3%
	Jail+Probation	65	3.5%	44	2.8%	29	2.6%	5	4.3%	143	3.1%
	Probation	306	16.4%	165	10.4%	178	16.0%	20	17.2%	669	14.3%
	Fine	159	8.5%	89	5.6%	120	10.8%	3	2.6%	371	7.9%
	Cond Discharge	468	25.0%	254	16.0%	229	20.6%	34	29.3%	985	21.0%
	Other/Unknown	25	1.3%	9	0.6%	9	0.8%	2	1.7%	45	1.0%



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Correcting Past Injustices

Panel to monitor conviction reviews

BY ANDREW SMITH

andrew.smith@newsday.com

Suffolk District Attorney Timothy Sini on Thursday sharpened his office's plan to undo wrongful convictions and invited those who believe they were convicted of crimes they didn't commit to seek justice through his office.

Sini had already set up a Conviction Integrity Bureau in August to review selected convictions, ensuring they were based on valid evidence and testimony and fair legal practices. Prosecutors in Brooklyn, Philadelphia and elsewhere have established such bureaus.

Now, Sini has established an independent panel to review the bureau's work and make its own recommendations on whether a conviction should be vacated. Ultimately, Sini will make the final call.

"All of these steps represent a commitment to doing the right thing," Sini said. "We don't want people convicted for crimes they did not commit. . . . We're not going to spare any resource in our investigations."



“All of these steps represent a commitment to doing the right thing. We don't want people convicted for crimes they did not commit.”

— Suffolk District Attorney Timothy Sini

The bureau, which already is investigating 28 cases, is headed for now by Sini's special counsel, Assistant District Attorney Howard Master, but Sini said he will appoint someone who will focus on the Conviction Integrity Bureau alone.

The independent panel consists of Jennifer Rodgers, founder of Columbia Law School's Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity; Suffolk County Bar Association president Justin Block; and civil rights attorney Laura Solinger, who helped free Shawn Lawrence after he was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 75 years to life in prison.

Lawrence was convicted of

taking part in a 2010 ambush that resulted in the shooting death of James Terry, 44, in North Amityville. He has since filed a wrongful conviction suit against Suffolk County.

Sini said he also has been advised by Assistant District Attorney Brendan Ahern. When Ahern was a defense attorney, he exposed misconduct committed by prosecutor Glenn Kurtzrock that was so egregious that Sini's predecessor, Thomas Spota, demanded Kurtzrock resign mid-trial. Kurtzrock also prosecuted Lawrence.

Both cases were marked by prosecutors refusing to turn over evidence favorable to the defense under what is known as the Brady rule. The 55-year-

old U.S. Supreme Court decision requires prosecutors to do that to ensure a just trial.

"To not turn it over, it's egregious," Solinger said. With such evidence, defense attorneys are better able to investigate cases before trial and defend clients more fully, she said.

Sini said his office also has been investigating all of the cases Kurtzrock has handled during his career in Suffolk, and will issue a report when it is done.

Sini said it's possible that he, Master and panel members will disagree at times on how to handle a case. He pledged to be transparent in how cases are handled and said it's possible the office would make public the cases where it has de-

nied applications.

When the office agrees to vacate a conviction, it will do so by making a joint application to the court with the defense. There is no time limit on seeking review from the bureau.

Sini said some cases now under review date to the 1970s. He noted that in the 1970s and 1980s, the state Investigation Commission had found widespread abuse in both the Suffolk County Police Department and the district attorney's office, particularly in narcotics and homicide cases.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we had petitions going back that far," Sini said.

He also noted that Spota is awaiting trial on federal obstruction of justice charges, so some petitions may come in related to that case.

Sini asked attorneys and defendants to have a case reviewed by filling out an initial form, available at nwsdy.li/2RVmFNd. Those seeking review also can call 631-853-4226 or email convictionintegrity@suffolkcountyny.gov.

EDITORIAL

At last, justice prevails

Keith Bush's wrongful conviction and incarceration forced Suffolk to face up to past and present corruption

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD

K with Bush finally got justice in Suffolk County. It came after he paid an insupportable and terrible price: 39 years of his liberty and the denial of his life's dreams. A powerful, imprisoned Bush maintained his innocence all those years with the hope that someday there would be a few decent people who cared about correcting the wrongs of powerful but dishonest officials in law enforcement.



While the level of intentional misconduct in Bush's case is staggering, there still are significant problems to be addressed. Already has diminished one murder indictment because prosecutors failed to turn over required materials. His new lawsuit has received a total of 80 requests for review of convictions, 80 of which have been denied. There are being investigated for constitutional violations of a defendant's rights, and the remaining ones are being processed. And while Bush's case is four decades old, strains of the outrageous arrogance that surrounded Suffolk police and prosecutors still exist. Former Suffolk Chief of Police James Burke was sentenced in 2010 to 46 months in prison on federal charges that he beat a suspect in custody in 2002. In 2013, the former district attorney who is facing trial on charges of abuse of power, was additionally sentenced last year, along with his top aide, of trying to ob-

PRESUMED INNOCENCE

Judge vacates Keith Bush's 1976 murder conviction

A2-4 | VIDEO AT NEWSDAY.COM

TRUMP Pelosi accuses president of 'cover-up' as more Dems call for impeachment A5

TIME TO GET AWAY Holiday weekend outlook and things to do A12-13
NEWSDAY.COM/MEMORIALDAY

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TOP STORIES

76 MURDER CONVICTION IS VACATED

Keith Bush's name is cleared — at long last

BY ANDREW SMITH
andrew.smith@newsday.com

Keith Bush is no longer a convicted murderer or a registered sex offender, after a Suffolk judge vacated his conviction Wednesday as a result of a prior application from his lawyer and Suffolk District Attorney Timothy Sini.

"Mr. Bush, I cannot give you back that which was taken from you in the 1970s. But I can give you back your presumption of innocence. ... I wish you well, sir."

— Suffolk County Court Judge Anthony Senti

For sure who struggled 16-year-old Sherene Watson in North Bedford in January 1976. Bush served 32 years in prison after he was convicted of second-degree murder. Until Wednesday, he was still on parole and registered as a sex offender.

Bush was a 27-year-old junior at Suffolk High School when Suffolk authorities charged him with killing Watson after a lengthy house party Watson's father was taken to. In 2010, the Medical Center in Riverhead.

Bernhard and the chief of Suffolk's Corrupt Investigation Bureau, Howard Maser, formally filed the motion to undo the criminal case against Bush minutes after the Arthur M. Corman Criminal Court Complex opened at 9 a.m. The motion sought to vacate Bush's entire criminal case noting that police and prosecutors had evidence favorable to Bush and manufactured evidence against him, including a false confession that Bush only signed after what he said was a prolonged beating by police.

About an hour later, Senti's courtroom filled with lawyers, reporters and, finally, Bush's family and friends. Lorraine Bush-Selling and fiancée, Devin Moore, came with him from Bridgeport, Connecticut, where he lives now. Bush took the rare step of addressing the court himself. He urged Senti to grant the defense request to set aside Bush's case. "The law and justice so requires," he said.

Bush said in court that he was grateful to Sini for being the first to listen to him and from whom "some good news and insight to me," he said.

As the proceeding ended, the courtroom was flooded with applause. One woman shouted, "Happy birthday."

The emotion carried out into the hallway, where Bush's mother sobbed in relief as she hugged from her past. Bush's mother sobbed in relief as she hugged from her past. Bush's mother sobbed in relief as she hugged from her past.



Suffolk County District Attorney Timothy Sini addresses Judge

ments later, Sini praised the investigation that Bernhard did for Bush. His office spent the past year writing her report of work without her, work and her claim's work," Sini said. "It's an honor to work with her."

He then turned to Bush and said, "On behalf of the Suffolk district attorney's office and the law enforcement community, I'm sorry."

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TOP STORIES

Sini's report details a litany of injustices

BY THOMAS MAZE
thomas.maze@newsday.com



Sent at County Court in Riverhead, with Keith Bush and his attorney, Addie Bernhard, seated nearby.

After 44 years, Keith Bush's 1976 murder conviction was vacated by a judge after a district attorney's report concluded he had been wrongfully convicted of the sex-related murder of teenager Sherene Watson.

A report filed with the court Wednesday by the Suffolk District Attorney's Corrupt Investigation Bureau detailed how several former Suffolk district attorneys kept secret evidence of another potential murder suspect who may be the real killer.

The newly discovered evidence shows that "Bush is actually innocent of the crimes with which he was convicted," concluded Howard Maser, who heads the bureau for Suffolk District Attorney Timothy Sini. Bush, now 62, spent 39 years behind bars and had since been paroled as a sex-offender.

The nearly 300-page report said Bush was wrongfully convicted during a 1976 trial because of several dubious pieces of evidence, including faulty forensic evidence, witnesses who felt intimidated by police and a false signed confession that Bush said he had been out of him by homicide detectives.

The evidence also notes that Bush was wrongfully convicted of the murder of Watson because it could have helped Bush establish that someone else had committed the murder," the report questioned.

Recently, Corrupt Investigation Bureau investigators questioned two former homicide former detectives, Thomas Jeffrey and David Sini, who interrupted Bush in January 1979 and put together his signed confession. "Through his attorney, Jeffrey answered only a limited number of questions posed to him and never said any wrongdoing, the report stated. Sini, who was twice given a "racist names" and named former Suffolk District Attorney Thomas Sini's name in the matter.

"Why is this thing being opened up again, I thought it was closed," Sini said. "I thought it was closed."

The alternative suspect (David) may well have committed



THURSDAY
How Newsday covered the story

ted the officers of which Bush was wrongfully convicted," said the report, which points out Sini's history of violent and sex-related offenses both before and after Watson's 1976 murder. The report, labeled Jones, who died in 2006, as "perhaps the most viable suspect in Watson's murder."

The report painted a disturbing picture about how Suffolk authorities, particularly trial prosecutor Gerard Sullivan along with then-Suffolk homicide detectives, had vital information in the Bush case.

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The alternative suspect (David) may well have committed

Bush Jones his former, David Maser, outside court after murder charges against him were vacated, nearly 40 years after his conviction.

SEN BUSH AT A2



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Correcting Past Injustices

Federal Grants

- In 2019, the Conviction Integrity Bureau was awarded more than \$849,000 in highly-competitive federal grants from the U.S. Department of Justice to aid in the investigation of wrongful conviction claims:
 - \$275,000 partnership grant awarded to the SCDAO and New York Law School
 - \$574,060 two-year grant to support CIB's efforts to identify violent felony cases that could be subject to DNA testing and conduct such testing
- Created an Independent Review Panel to review applications and advise our office. It is an independent panel made up of outside attorneys.



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Protecting Our Community

*A Nuanced Approach to Addressing
the Public Safety Issues of Our Time*



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Protecting Our Community

A Multi-Faceted Approach to the Drug Epidemic



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

A Multi-Faceted Approach to the Drug Epidemic

Continuum of Opportunities for Intervention

- 2018: Comprehensive Addiction Recovery and Education ("CARE") Program
- 2020: Diversion Opening Opportunities for Recovery Services ("DOORS")
- Coming Soon: Post-arrest, pre-arraignment diversion program





SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

A Multi-Faceted Approach to the Drug Epidemic

Continuum of Opportunities for Intervention

Comprehensive Addiction Recovery and Education
("CARE") Program

	Participants	Total Dispositions	Successful		Unsuccessful	
Aug. - Dec. 2018	51	13	7	54%	6	46%
2019	125	86	64	74%	22	26%
2020	58	41	27	66%	14	34%

Total Participants	170	100%
Gender		
Male	116	68%
Female	54	32%
Race		
White	132	78%
Black	28	16%
Other	10	6%
Ethnicity		
Non-Hispanic	130	76%
Hispanic	36	21%
Other	4	2%



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

A Multi-Faceted Approach to the Drug Epidemic

Targeting Drug Dealers & Major Traffickers

- Three drug dealers convicted of Manslaughter charges for causing fatal overdoses
- 2019:
 - 273 Narcotics search warrants
 - 7 wiretap investigations (60 eavesdropping warrants over 36 lines)
 - More than 20 kilograms of narcotics seized
 - 12 individuals charged with Operating as a Major Drug Trafficker
- 2020:
 - 173 Narcotics search warrants
 - 4 wiretap investigations (48 eavesdropping warrants over 25 lines)
 - More than 27 kilograms of narcotics seized
 - 10 OMTs charged



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**Protecting Our
Community**

Eradicating Gangs



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Eradicating Gangs

Community-Based Prevention Strategies

- “Life in America”
 - An educational program aimed at introducing recent immigrant students in schools to American society; informs them of “rules of the road” for residing in the U.S. and how it may differ from their home countries
 - Allows students to ask any questions they may have
 - Provided in partnership with the Probation Department
- Partnership with STRONG Youth
 - Programs offered in Brentwood, Wyandanch and Bellport school districts to address gang issues experienced by young people, students & families
 - Provides counseling in schools and the community, referrals for services, summer camp, assistance in ESL classes, community service opportunities, bereavement services



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Eradicating Gangs

Community-Based Prevention Strategies

- Suffolk County Sheriff's Office's "School to Prison Pipeline" Committee
 - Examines the factors leading young people to incarceration
 - Addresses the root causes of youth crime and racial inequities in the justice system
 - Brings together law enforcement, lawmakers, school officials, human service professionals and impacted individuals to innovate and create systemic change



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Eradicating Gangs

- In late 2019, 96 MS-13 gang members and associates were indicted in Suffolk County, the largest MS-13 takedown in history
 - Investigation resulted in more than 230 arrests throughout the world, including Guatemala, Europe and across the Eastern seaboard
 - Prevented over 10 murder plots in Suffolk County alone and took out leaders of 9 cliques in Suffolk County
- The Enhanced Prosecution Bureau continues to target and prosecute dangerous gang members, including Bloods, Crips, Latin Kings, etc.



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**Protecting Our
Community**

Combating Human Trafficking

Back To School

Most LI districts will begin right after Labor Day

A4-5



LUKE J. PATE

Trump On Iran

Says he's willing to meet with nation's leader 'any time'

A6-7

NEW FOCUS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Suffolk police create permanent investigation unit, first of its kind on LI

A3 | LI CRIME STATS AT [NEWSDAY.COM/DATA](http://newsday.com/data)

DAVID GOODMAN

New Suffolk unit sees prostitutes as crime victims

BY ANDREW SMITH
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The Suffolk County Police Department has established a permanent human-trafficking investigation unit, committing to an approach that treats those who work in prostitution as victims of traffickers, county officials announced Monday.

The new unit, the first of its kind on Long Island, will focus instead on those who force women, girls and boys into prostitution, often to support other criminal activity, such as drug dealing or gangs. The team will be staffed by six detectives, including a commanding officer, and two police officers. It had been operating as a temporary unit since May 2017.

"This is not a victimless crime," as prostitution is often described, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said at a news conference. The victims, he and others said, are the prostitutes themselves.

District Attorney Timothy Sini, who established the temporary unit last year when he was police commissioner, said treating those in prostitution as victims is saving lives.

"We're shifting the paradigm," Sini said.

Assistant District Attorney Stacy Skorupa said women working as prostitutes are still arrested but are diverted into the county's Human Trafficking Court in Central Islip, where they are connected with counseling, drug treatment and job training in return for their help in making cases against the drug dealers or gang members who forced them into prostitution.

"The goal of that court is not to be punitive, obviously," Skorupa said. Those who are arrested and complete treatment have their charges dismissed or reduced to a noncriminal violation, she said.

Suffolk's Human Trafficking Court follows a model established six years ago in Nassau, Queens and Manhattan. Suffolk, however, benefits from the po-



DANIEL GOODMAN

Suffolk DA Timothy Sini and other county officials unveil the new human-trafficking unit. "We're shifting the paradigm," he said.

lice department's new unit and a companion unit in the district attorney's office run by Skorupa that Sini established this year.

"We changed our approach dramatically," said Suffolk Police Commissioner Geraldine Hart. Law enforcement no longer will view those in prostitution as criminals but as victims, she said.

"That reflects reality," Hart said. Those who sell sex usually do so because they've been coerced into it, she said.

"Females are induced into this activity by getting hooked onto drugs," most often opioids, Hart said.

Since the pilot unit began, she said, 37 people have been diverted from the criminal justice system into treatment.

"This is truly a collaborative piece of work," Sini said.

He credited Gerard Gigante, chief of detectives, for pushing to create the pilot human-trafficking unit.

Helping victims has encouraged them to work with law enforcement, Sini said. "They have helped us put some bad people behind bars," he said. The change is dramatic, he said. In the decade before the unit began working, five people were indicted on sex-trafficking charges, Sini said.

But since May 2017, he said nine people have been charged with 75 sex-trafficking counts, as well as another 90 counts on charges that include drug dealing, assault, stalking and menacing.

Sexual exploitation for profit does not look like the stereotype, said Jennifer Hernandez, executive director of

Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island, a group that advocates for victims.

"We are going to be saving countless lives through this initiative," she said. Many people assume that traffickers trick victims into coming from Asia or South America, only to force them into prostitution. While that does happen, Hernandez said, it is far more common for both traffickers and those forced into prostitution to be local — and it happens in every neighborhood on Long Island.

In affluent or mostly white neighborhoods, Hernandez said victims often are heroin users deep in debt to their drug dealers, who collect by taking a cut of what the victims make in prostitution.

"Most of these victims are

young girls, 16-, 17-year-old girls into their 20s," Gigante said. In minority communities, Hernandez said, the dynamic can be different. Sometimes family members sell children to support a drug habit, she said. In other cases, gangs sell women and girls as a source of income.

Hernandez and law enforcement officials, therefore, said attacking trafficking is also a way of attacking illegal drug dealing and gang activity.

Gigante said police also are alerting hotels and motels to what sexual trafficking looks like so they can call police if they see signs of it. Police also are monitoring social media, where women and girls are sometimes advertised.

"That was our original hook in," Gigante said.

Targeting traffickers

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID GOODMAN



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Combating Human Trafficking

- Three-pronged strategy:
 - Targeting and prosecuting human traffickers
 - Treating victims as victims and connecting them to services
 - Raising general awareness of the issue and increasing training for law enforcement



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Protecting Our Community

Protecting the Environment



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Protecting the Environment

- Long Island has been the victim of illegal dumping for decades, primarily from construction sites in NYC
- Illegal dumping is linked to environmental racism, or the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on communities of color
 - *Example: Roberto Clemente Park*





SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Protecting the Environment

- **Operation Pay Dirt:** Special Grand Jury empaneled in 2018 had two phases:
 - Phase One was the largest illegal dumping investigation in NYS history, which resulted in a 130-count indictment against 30 individuals and 9 corporations and a 5-count indictment against one additional corporation. All 40 defendants have pleaded guilty and the ringleader was sentenced to prison.
 - Phase Two was an investigation into the effects of environmental crime on Long Island. The resulting report included recommendations on legislative and administrative action to effectively combat environmental crimes.

newsday.com
6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Thursday
July 10, 2014

Newsday

THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER

HEAT 67°
HUMIDITY 70%

SHARK

Possible attacks on 2 kids close South Shore beaches
A3 | VIDEO AT NEWSDAY.COM



Corey Murphy, 36, of Westbury, stands with his 10-year-old son, Corey, and his 8-year-old daughter, Emily, on a beach in South Shore.

NASSAU ASSESSMENTS

More than half of homeowners filed grievance this year
A5

DA: 'DIRT BROKER' USED BOGUS LAB RESULTS TO PUT DEBRIS IN HOMEOWNERS' BACKYARDS

A3 | UPDATES AT NEWSDAY.COM

DA: 'Dirt broker' used bogus lab results to put debris in homeowners' backyards

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SMITHTOWN 'PAY DIRT'

Li broker called heart of illegal dumping scheme

BY MICHAEL BENNETT
newsday.com

An undercover operation that traced dozens of trucks dumping debris in Smithtown, Long Island, during the past year, revealed that a man known as "Dirt Broker" was the heart of the illegal dumping scheme. The investigation also revealed that the man, who is now being sought by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, was the one who convinced homeowners to let him dump debris in their backyards. The investigation also revealed that the man, who is now being sought by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, was the one who convinced homeowners to let him dump debris in their backyards.



Mounds of illegally dumped dirt, seen near Riverhead State Park, were discovered as part of Operation Pay Dirt's undercover investigation.

ARRESTED IN THE CASE

DA: Contaminated debris given to homeowners
22 suspects, 9 businesses accused in conspiracy

DA: Contaminated debris given to homeowners
22 suspects, 9 businesses accused in conspiracy

Newsday

YOUR EYE ON LI

Driver Rejects Plea Deal

Moveover man accused of killing Boy Scout opted for trial
A3-B | VIDEO AT NEWSDAY.COM



Superhero At the Movies

Registered man says must have sudden cardiac arrest at theater
A3 | VIDEO AT NEWSDAY.COM

RING LEADER GUILTY IN DUMPING SCHEME

Smithtown 'dirt broker' gets 2 to 4 years in prison, must pay \$500G
A3 | UPDATES AT NEWSDAY.COM

Smithtown 'dirt broker' gets 2 to 4 years in prison, must pay \$500G

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TOP STORIES

A DUMPING 'NIGHTMARE'

Sin: Toxic waste went to homes promised clean fill
BY ANDREW GUTIN
newsday.com

Sin: Toxic waste went to homes promised clean fill



David Anthony Timoney Sr., defiling a cemetery, showed the photo of a Central Islip home where he said debris was dumped illegally.

TOP STORIES

Dumping bust a record

N.Y.'s Operation Pay Dirt nets 24 dozen
BY MICHAEL BENNETT
newsday.com

N.Y.'s Operation Pay Dirt nets 24 dozen

TOP STORIES

Prison in polluted fill scheme

Smithtown man gets 2-4 years, must pay \$500G
BY MICHAEL BENNETT
newsday.com

Prison in polluted fill scheme

TOP STORIES

Long Island

Prison in polluted fill scheme

Prison in polluted fill scheme

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TOP STORIES

Long Island

Prison in polluted fill scheme

Prison in polluted fill scheme



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Protecting the Environment

- As a direct result of the report, legislation was passed by the New York State Legislature signed into law in 2020 by Governor Cuomo to prevent large-scale illegal waste dumping in New York.

TOP STORIES

SPECIAL GRAND JURY REPORT:

State needs to get tough on dumping

Suggests laws to punish offenders, regulate disposal

New York State needs new laws to control illegal dumping, according to a special grand jury report released last week. The report, which was the result of a year-long investigation into the problem of illegal dumping, found that the state needs to get tough on offenders and regulate disposal.

The report, which was the result of a year-long investigation into the problem of illegal dumping, found that the state needs to get tough on offenders and regulate disposal. The report, which was the result of a year-long investigation into the problem of illegal dumping, found that the state needs to get tough on offenders and regulate disposal.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Criminalize illegal dumping
- Increase penalties for illegal dumping
- Create a new offense for illegal dumping
- Create a new offense for illegal dumping



Suffolk County District Attorney Timothy J. Sinisi speaking at a podium.

TOP STORIES

NOV ONLINE

Nov. 17, 2018

Nov. 17, 2018

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TOP STORIES



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and other officials at a press conference.

Anti-dumping push

Bipartisan bill to make it easier to try, punish crime

The New York State Legislature passed a bipartisan bill to make it easier to try, punish crime. The bill, which was introduced by Sen. Tom Harkin and Rep. Tom Harkin, would make it easier to try, punish crime.

Cuomo signs law making illegal dumping a felony

BY VANCE ROY
vance.roy@newsday.com

ALBANY — Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo signed a law Tuesday to designate as felonies illegally dumping of construction debris or participating in a dumping scheme, a move that was sparked by a disposal scandal that closed a Brentwood park for more than three years.

"Illegal dumping is a significant problem and too often its costs are unjustly passed on to the community," Cuomo said in a statement. "Not only does this legislation strengthen criminal penalties to ensure sanctions do not simply become another cost of doing business, but (also) it further discourages large-scale illegal dumping by holding developers and waste haulers accountable for creating the problem in the first place."

In the past, those caught dumping materials often were charged with a low-level offense, such as criminal mischief, and assessed a relatively small fine, legislators said. The old law "did little to deter bad actors," said Sen. Todd Kaminsky (D-Long Beach), the Senate sponsor of the legislation. "For too long, Long Island . . .



Illegally dumped dirt mounds in Brentwood on July 17, 2018.

has been a dumping ground of hazardous waste from New York's construction industry. This bill will finally give prosecutors the tools they need," Kaminsky said Tuesday. Assembly sponsor Steve Englebright (D-Setauket) said too often toxic wastes from illegal dumping would "end up in our water supply." Under the bill, "scheming to defraud" to illegally dispose of "solid waste" would be a felony carrying up to a 4-year prison sentence. Other provisions specifically make illegal the dumping of construction debris, hazardous substances and "acutely hazardous" materials, with penalties varying according to the amount found. The legislation was sparked by a scandal in Brentwood and other investigations that followed. In 2014, officials discovered 40,000 tons of contaminated material dumped at Roberto Clemente Park in Nassau and Suffolk counties. The Newsway investigation also showed disposal costs for legally getting rid of construction and demolition debris were more than twice what haulers were paid to bring the material to Clemente Park — highlighting profit as a factor for the dumping.



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**Protecting Our
Community**

Public Integrity Bureau

Union leaders indicted

Feds, Suffolk DA charge 11 with accepting bribes

BY NICOLE FULLER
nicole.fuller@newsday.com

Eleven top union officials in the construction industry on Long Island have been indicted by federal authorities on allegations of accepting bribes totaling over \$100,000 following a two-year wiretap investigation that began in Suffolk County, officials announced Thursday.

Authorities allege the defendants — current and former members of Local 638, a union with jurisdiction over pipe fitting on Long Island and in New York City — agreed to accept dozens of bribes, beginning in October 2018, “to corruptly influence the construction industry at the expense of labor unions and their own members who they’re supposed to be representing,” according to Michael Hatan, federal prosecutor and the Suffolk County district at-



Suffolk County District Attorney Timothy Sini called the alleged corruption

of the United Association, based in Ronkonkoma, has jurisdiction of all plumbing work in Nassau and Suffolk counties, according to its website.

which represents over 200,000 unionized construction workers across the state. Prosecutors allege Cahill was the leader of the so-called “enter-

ney Timothy Sini, whose office brought the case to the U.S. attorney’s office, said in a statement: “These union officials — who who were to be the ones looking out for workers and their rights — were in fact engaged in an enterprise of corruption at the expense of the hard-working men and women they claimed to represent. This was a complete betrayal of these

Suffolk cop accused of \$7G theft

BY STEFANIE DAZO
stefanie.dazo@newsday.com

A Suffolk police sergeant was arrested on theft and corruption charges Tuesday after authorities said he stole more than \$7,000 from the department by falsifying timesheets to collect an extra 12 paid days off.

Robert Kall, 48, of Shoreham, pleaded not guilty at arraignment Tuesday before Judge Gaston Loez. Kall, 48, of Shoreham, pleaded not guilty at arraignment Tuesday before Judge Gaston Loez. Kall, 48, of Shoreham, pleaded not guilty at arraignment Tuesday before Judge Gaston Loez.

dance, Police Commissioner Geraldine Hart said in the release.

“Misconduct of any kind is taken seriously and will not be tolerated in this department,” Hart said. “Residents should be assured that our officers are committed to their profession and Kall’s conduct is not reflective of the Department’s dedication to service.”

Kall’s Hauspaugue lawyer, Anthony La Pinta, said his client, a patrol sergeant in Yaphank’s Seventh Precinct, did nothing wrong, which will eventually be proven.

LONG ISLAND / CRIME

State trooper indicted on perjury charges in 2017 DWI arrest

By Bart Jones
bart.jones@newsday.com
Updated November 7, 2015

PRINT SHARE

State Police Trooper Kevin committing perjury in Suffolk County District

Tunney, who joined the S motorist has been dropp

TOP STORIES

EX-COACH IS GUILTY OF THEFT



David Falco was also charged with public corruption and corrupting the government.

Sachem H.S. North’s Falco filed fake timesheets to steal district money

BY MICHAEL O’KEEFE
michael.o’keefe@newsday.com

A Suffolk County jury deliberated for about an hour Monday before finding former Sachem High School North head football coach David Falco guilty of filing bogus timesheets to steal money from the school district.

Falco, 53, filed timesheets requesting \$5,758.68 in compensation for supervising weight room sessions at Sachem North between Dec. 8, 2017, and Jan. 15, 2018, work that was actually done by his assistant coaches, Suffolk County District Attorney Timothy Sini said Monday.

“We hold our public servants to a standard of trust, that they will serve the public in good faith,” Sini said. “When they break that trust, we need to hold them accountable.”

Falco told the assistant coaches who supervised the weight room sessions they would not be compensated for their efforts.

“He was essentially stealing from his colleagues,” Sini said. Falco, of Center Moriches,

was charged with third-degree larceny, public corruption, corrupting the government in his arrest in November 2018. Graham said at the time Falco “has been resigned to home pending the outcome of the legal process.”

The 1984 Sachem North graduate coached the Sachem North football team for 15 seasons until his resignation in August 2018 just days before the start of the season. He also was the school’s physical education chairman.

Falco started at the school in 1996. He coached the football team to a 82-58 record after taking over in 2003 and won the 2013 Long Island Championship.

With Jim Baumbach

Suffolk DA: Nassau officer and wife, a Jake’s 58 cashier, planned robbery

BY NICOLE FULLER
nicole.fuller@newsday.com

A Nassau County police officer and his wife have been arrested by Suffolk authorities on allegations they conspired to rob an Islandia casino, the Suffolk County district attorney’s office said Wednesday.

Officer Bruce Moeller and his wife, Christina Moeller, a cashier at Jake’s 58 Hotel & Casino, were taken into custody Tuesday and charged with fourth-degree conspiracy, according to court documents.

last week as a result of a Suffolk grand jury investigation. The other officers — publicly identified by authorities for the first time Wednesday — are Erik Skoghund, charged with fourth-degree conspiracy, and Karen Ernst, charged with fourth-degree criminal facilitation, a misdemeanor. They were g desk appearance tickets and to be arraigned at a later date.

The district attorney’s office declined to answer questions about the allegations the four defendants are charged with or whether they’re alleged to be part of the same conspiracy.

The three police officers have been suspended without pay, said Det. Lt. Richard Bruen, a spokesman for the Suffolk police department.

The Moellers pleaded not guilty at their arraignments Wednesday morning in First District Court in Central Islip, said Sheila Kelly, a spokeswoman for the district attorney’s office. Bruce Moeller was released on a \$300,000 bond and Christina Moeller was released on a \$50,000 bond, their attorneys said.

“We plan to strongly defend

said Spreer, whose practice is in Babylon. “We have to explore what the district attorney’s allegation is. She has never been in trouble.”

A spokesman for Jake’s 58 did not respond to a message seeking comment.

Nassau Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder described the arrests as “disappointing and disheartening” and said the offi-

dent of the Nassau Police Benevolent Association, declined to comment.

The arrests of Skoghund and Ernst were announced June 5 by Suffolk County District Attorney Timothy Sini. His office refused to provide those officers’ names and details of their arrests last week, citing grand jury secrecy rules, and reiterated that stance Wednesday. At-

LONG ISLAND / CRIME

Water Mill man twice sought absentee ballot for his dead mom, Suffolk DA says

LONG ISLAND

CHARGES IN CASINO PLOT

been charged with in prison, the Suffolk

TOP STORIES

Cop, pair held in drug ring

Fatal overdose led to arrest of three on Island

BY MICHAEL O’KEEFE
michael.o’keefe@newsday.com

An NYPD officer from West Islip and two other Long Island men were arrested on drug and conspiracy charges Tuesday the result of an investigation sparked by the fatal overdose of a man in Copiague in September.

Joseph Rocco, 26, who faces drug conspiracy, official misdemeanor charges, could serve up to 25 years in prison if convicted, Suffolk County District Attorney Timothy Sini said Wednesday.

“This is obviously a shocking case,” Sini said. “We’re looking for law enforcement dealing drugs in our community, which

is very concerning and we are going to hold him accountable.”

Rocco replied from the NYPD after his arraignment Wednesday in Suffolk County Court in Central Islip. Rocco’s alleged partners in the drug distribution ring, Michael Corbett, 35, of West Islip, and Michael Sosa, 25, of Brentwood, also face drug and conspiracy charges. Sosa was charged with a gun violation after an uncompleted and untraceable 9 mm weapon was found in his home during execution of a search warrant in Suffolk County. He is held back in court Monday.

Rocco declined to speak with reporters after his arraignment. His attorney, Matthew Rosenbush, of Commack, called Rocco a “reformed officer” who was a victim of rising anti-police sentiment.

Outside his West Islip home Wednesday, Jim Rocco, the accused cop’s father, described his son as a “great guy.”

Corbett, also released on no-representation, is scheduled to return to court Sept. 9. Corbett’s attorney Steven Polli said his client was released from a hospital following knee replacement surgery the day before he was arrested. The drugs found in Corbett’s home, a large house in Suffolk County, were prescribed by a physician. Polli said Corbett had a large cause he preferred to use cash rather than credit cards during the coronavirus lockdown.

Rocco’s bail was set at \$300,000 cash or \$1.5 million partially secured bond. He is



NYPD Officer Joseph Rocco of West Islip, center, outside the courthouse in Central Islip Wednesday.

also expected to return to court on Monday. His attorney, Michael Brown of Central Islip, said he is confident the charges against his client will be proved to be unfounded.

“Rocco was the ring leader,” Brown said. “Mr. Sosa is just a minor player in all of this.”

Sini said Sosa supplied what were purported to be the cocaine pills to Rocco, who then sold them to Corbett, who sold the drugs to customers from his West Islip home.

Sini and Suffolk County Police Commissioner Geraldine Hart said the investigation began after a man in his 20s died from a drug overdose, and no conclusive evidence that Rocco sold drugs to the man just before his death.



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Grant Funding



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Grant Funding

- **The United States Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Youth Gang Suppression Grant:**
 - Award: \$124,951
 - The purpose of this program is to support jurisdictions with an established gang presence to coordinate gang suppression efforts and activities by prosecutorial and law enforcement agencies.
 - The SCDAO uses this grant funding to conduct analysis of social media, to pay for interpreters, and for relocation efforts.



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Grant Funding

- **NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Gun Involved Violence Elimination Initiative (GIVE):**
 - Award: \$511,787
 - The GIVE program aims to eliminate shootings and homicides, or aggravated assaults where applicable, through the integrated use of evidence-based strategies that are incorporated into the four core elements of GIVE: people, places, alignment and engagement.
 - The DA's Office works with GIVE partners including the SCPD, Probation, and the Sheriff's Department to enact and maintain the strategies of hot spot policing, focused deterrence and outreach. This allows for the enhanced prosecution of the most violent armed offenders.



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Grant Funding

- **The United States Department of Justice Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant:**
 - Award: \$90,002 (FYs '19 & '20 combined)
 - Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide initiative that brings together federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and community leaders to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in a community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. Both the SCDAO and SCPD receive this grant annually.



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Grant Funding

- **Financial Investigations & Money Laundering:**
 - Interagency Contract for Welfare Fraud Prosecution: Reimbursement of up to \$150,097 per year from the Suffolk County Department of Social Services
 - DCJS Crimes Against Revenue Program (CARP) Grant: \$1.6 million
 - Assists with investigations into individuals who fail to pay tax obligations, as well as those who commit Medicaid, welfare, unemployment and workers' compensation fraud
 - Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Grant: \$290,000
 - Supports a variety of initiatives for the prevention and investigation of auto theft and auto insurance fraud



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Community Outreach



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Community Outreach

Prevention & Educational Programs

- **Choices & Consequences**
 - Presentation by the Vehicular Crime Bureau on the dangers of drunk, drugged and distracted driving
 - Updated in partnership with LICADD to address drug use
- **Teen Dating Violence**
 - Presentation by the Child Abuse & Domestic Violence Bureau on dating violence, social media and internet safety, sexual assault awareness, and other issues that affect teens and young adults
- **Elder Abuse**
 - Presentation by the Financial Investigations & Money Laundering Bureau on protecting seniors citizens against financial exploitation
- **Coming soon: Social Media Safety**



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Community Outreach

- **Town Hall Meetings:** Open to the public and presented monthly on Zoom
- **Community Advisory Board:** A diverse group of community leaders representing each area of Suffolk County that meets quarterly to discuss important issues facing residents in each community
- **Labor Advisory Board:** Leaders from organized labor who represent Long Island workers. Meets quarterly with the DA to partner on efforts to target those who break the law and cause harm to workers



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**Achieving
Justice for All**



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Achieving Justice for All

- We have made significant progress in just three years, and this is only the beginning:
 - Implemented reforms throughout the Office; restored integrity to its leadership; and created a culture of excellence and compliance with our legal and ethical obligations as prosecutors
 - Invested heavily in recruiting diverse, top-tier attorneys to reflect the communities we serve and ensure long-lasting change
 - Shifted the paradigm on a number of public safety issues, taking a nuanced approach to better serve justice & protect the public through a combination of prevention, education and enforcement efforts



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Achieving Justice for All

- We have done all of this while reducing our jail population to the lowest level in recorded history AND reducing crime to the lowest level in recorded history.
 - Worked with the Sheriff's Office, Courts and all local law enforcement agencies to reduce the jail population. Effort began in 2015, which resulted in the lifting of an unfunded State mandate to build a third jail in Suffolk County.
 - Average daily population of inmates:
 - 2013: 1,543
 - 2019: 1,084
 - 2020 (after bail reform): approx. 400-800 throughout the year
 - 2021: 679

SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



TRUTH · JUSTICE · INTEGRITY